BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1970

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URBAN DISTRICT OF BUCKFASTLEIGH.

Annual Report on the Health of the Area for the year 1970.

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BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT

Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1970.

p r e f a c e

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Report on the Health of the District during 1970, drawn up along the lines suggested in Department of Health & Social Security Circular 1/71, dated January, 1971. Included in the Report is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

The Registrar General estimated the population to be 2440. It will be interesting to learn how this figure compares with that of the Census in 1971. There were 39 births giving a Standardised Birth Rate of 21.3. This is well above the National Average of 16.0 per thousand population and might be accounted for by the fact that the illegitimate birth rate for Buckfastleigh was 13% of all live births which is nearly double the National Rate of 8%. Deaths increased to 42 giving a Standardised Rate of 14.2 per thousand population which is well above the National Average of 11.7. As in former years the majority of deaths were caused by heart disease and cancer.

Work commenced to replace defective sewers and it is hoped that the consequent loss of infiltration water will ease the load upon the sewage treatment works and enable that works to function more efficiently.

Again I wish to thank all Members of the Council and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

John Wildman.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1971.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1970.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mary E. Budding, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (Also Surveyor).

G.T.W.Allen, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman — Councillor M. Tolchard.

Chairman of the Council — Councillor S.C.J.Goffin.

and

Miss F.M.Axford, Messrs. A.W.Thompson, J.A.West, J.R.Willcocks and Dr. M.Wigram.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT 1970.

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SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1970.

Table 1.

Figures for 1969 are shown in brackets.

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Buckfastleigh Urban District.

2,440 (2,510)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	- 7	(+ 1)
Migration in or out	...	...	-63	(- 1)
Total increase or decrease	...	...	-70	(Nil)
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	...	2,558

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Buckfastleigh Urban District in Acres.

1,365

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (1st April)

1,034 (1,034)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	0.758	(0.758)
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	1.787	(1,840)
Number of Persons per house	...	...	2.360	(2.428)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	...	395	(396)

Rateable Value of District (1st April).

£103,318 (£103,318)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate.

£406 (£395)

S E C T I O N A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1930.

Table 1.

Figures for 1929 are shown in brackets.

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Buckfastleigh Urban District.

2,440 (2,350)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	- 7	(+ 1)
Migration in or out	...	...	-63	(- 1)
Total increase or decrease	...	...	-70	(411)
Population at 1921 Census	...	...	...	2,359

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of Buckfastleigh Urban District in Acres.

1,365

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (1st April)

1,034 (1,024)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	0.758	(0.759)
Number of Persons per room	...	...	1.787	(1.840)
Number of Persons per house	...	...	2.360	(2.423)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	...	35	(30)

Rateable Value of District (1st April).

£10,313 (£10,348)

Sum represented by a Penny Rate.

£40.5 (£39)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1970.

Table 2.

Figures for 1969 are shown in brackets.

BIRTHS:

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 21.3 (17.4)

Area Comparability Factor for Births 1.33 (1.33)

Number of Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Total	26	13	39
Legitimate	24	10	34
Illegitimate	2	3	5
Number of Still Births	0	0	0

DEATHS.

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 Population. 14.2 (9.1

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths 0.75 (0.72)

Number of Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
All Ages - Total	23	23	46
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.	1	0	1
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births. ...26.0 (30.3)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES:

Birth Rate 16.0 (16.3) Death Rate 11.7 (11.9)

Infantile Mortality Rate 18.0 (18.0)
(Infants under 1 year of age)

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two cases of Infective JAUNDICE were reported in the first and last quartersof the year. The illness is debilitating and recovery takes several weeks or even months. The most efficient weapon against infection is good sanitation and good personal hygiene.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - No statutory action was necessary for the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Section 50 - No burials took place under this Section of the Act.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1970.

	M	F	Total
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	2	4
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	1	1
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
B19(10) Leukaemia	0	1	1
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	3	6
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	0	1	1
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	7	8	15
B29 Other forms of Heart Disease	2	1	3
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	2	3	5
B46(6) Other Diseases of Circulatory System...	1	1	2
B32 Pneumonia...	2	0	2
B34 Peptic Ulcer	2	0	2
B35 Appendicitis	0	1	1
B42 Congenital Anomalies	1	0	1
BE48 All other Accidents	1	0	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	23	23	46

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. Hospitals.

A general practitioner hospital with 15 mixed medical and surgical beds is situated in Ashburton. Other hospitals which serve the district are Newton Abbot Hospital and Torbay Hospital. There is a maternity unit at Broomborough Hospital, Totnes, to which many of the Buckfastleigh mothers are admitted for their confinement.

2. County Council Health Services.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the after care of such persons.

One district nurse /midwife works in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held twice a month and the health visitor for the area is in attendance . The Home Help Service is provided by the County Council and the local Organiser, Mrs. Clarke, has her office at the Family Welfare Centre Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes. Telephone Totnes 3665.

3. Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter.

4. Health Centre.

This was opened in May, 1966, and provides surgery accommodation and clerical help for two General Medical Practitioners as well as clinic facilities for Devon County Council Services.

5. Mass Miniature Radiography.

Facilities were available at Totnes and Newton Abbot for the general public to visit the Mass Radiography Unit, which called regularly every fortnight at those towns.

6. Mental Health.

Arrangements for treatment under the Mental Health Act, 1959, can be made either by the patient's own doctor or by the Senior Social Worker at the Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes. Telephone Totnes 3665.

7. Family Planning Service.

A clinic is held at the Adult Education Centre, Shinners Bridge, Dartington, on the third Tuesday afternoon of alternate months beginning in January of each year. Appointments can be made by the Appointments Secretary, Family Planning Association, 4, Barnfield Hill, Exeter. Telephone Exeter 76892 (on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).

8. Cervical Cytology.

A cervical cytology clinic for the early detection of cancer in women is held approximately once a month at the Buckfastleigh Health Centre, Telephone Buckfastleigh 2534. All women between the age of 30 and 60 years are eligible to apply for a test.

9. Meals on Wheels.

This voluntary service continued throughout the year and between 6 and 12 meals on average were provided twice a week. The meals were cooked at Buckfast Abbey, due to the generosity of the Abbot. Twenty Volunteer Helpers distributed the meals under their Organiser, Miss P.S.K.Davies (Buckfastleigh 2592).

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Refuse.

The quantity and variety of rubbish collected continues to increase, the average now being about 12 tons per week as against 11 tons in 1968. The material is burnt to reduce bulk and is then covered by quarry waste. Some minor trouble is caused by trespassers breaking the seal in search of salvage at night time and at weekends.

2. Sewage Disposal.

No change has taken place in the past year at the Works. The quality of the effluent has been erratic due to the preponderance of manufacturing waste received, and the hours worked by the Factories, which sometimes resulted in a greater flow at night when the Works were unattended than during the daytime when the men were there.

3. Sewerage.

Work on the relaying of the defective sewers began in August and has proceeded satisfactorily. It is hoped that the exclusion of infiltration water resulting from this work will have a beneficial effect upon the performance of the purification works.

4. Caravans.

There are two licensed caravan sites in the District, one private and residential, the other Council-owned and serving only tourists. An old Devon hedge, 6-8ft. wide, was grubbed up and used to fill a hollow, thus giving about another six spaces. The tourist park is very well patronised and it was found that during peak periods the amenity block was inadequate for the numbers attending, luckily the toilet blocks in the adjacent car park were available.

5. Swimming Pool.

This Town amenity continues to be very popular. The continuous chlorination and re-circulation plant was brought into use for the first time.

6. Rodent Control.

The level of the rodent population seems to remain constant. It was gratifying to note that when the old sewers were broken open for repairs no evidence of rat colonies were found.

7. Pest Control.

In this field wasps continue to cause the greatest nuisance although ants are becoming a close second. Part of the increase in the number of complaints is undoubtedly due to a growing awareness of the public to the fact that this service exists.

Wasp nests and ants in houses are dealt with free; a small charge is made for dealing with them elsewhere, although in the case of wasp nests near to the highway these are also dealt with without charge.

8. Water.

Water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board and is satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

One private supply was found to be contaminated by surface pollution and was connected to the public supply.

9. Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

One new premise was registered during the year.

All premises registered under the Act were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Food Premises.

These were all visited at least once during the year, and were found to be up to standard.

2. Food Hygiene.

The high standard is being maintained, due no doubt to the extension of pre-packed goods and the gradual disappearance of the roundsman.

3. Meat Inspection.

Meat inspection fell off to Nil at the end of the year, all meat being brought in from out-of-town abattoirs. Nevertheless the two existing slaughterhouses continue to be registered and licensed.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
No. killed	17	-	34	-	51
No. inspected	17	-	34	-	51
No. of entire carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
No. of carcases of which some part was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

1. General.

Of the 1034 inhabited houses in the district 395were owned by the Council.

Work began on two blocks of flats on the Old Vicarage Site at Glebelands, for 28 units of accommodation.

2. Improvement Grants.

Improvement grants were approved in respect of 10 private properties in the Town.

The Council modernised 20 Council houses at Glovers Park and initiated a scheme at West End for modernising a further 24.

SECTION F.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following is a summary of information required in respect of the year 1970. A total of 81 inspections was made in respect of 33 premises listed in the Factories Register.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

(i) Factories without Mechanical Power.
(Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6)

Number on Register	2
Inspections	2
Written Notices	0
Occupiers prosecuted	0

(ii) Factories with Mechanical Power.
(Section 7).

Number on Register	28
Inspections	35
Written Notices	0
Occupiers prosecuted	0

(iii) Other Premises under the Act.
(Section7)
(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworkers' Premises).

Number on Register	3
Inspections	47
Written Notices	0
Occupiers prosecuted	0

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

See table overleaf.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were made
	Found	Remedied	Referred By H.M. Insp.	Referred To H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work.	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (making)	-	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 177 and 178)

Nature of work.	Section 177			Section 178		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 177(1)(a)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (making)	-	-	-	-	-	-